

21 March 2006
Tuesday

READINGS

Psalm 78: 1-39; Genesis 45:1-15; I Corinthians 7:32-40; Mark 6:1-13

DEVOTION

When I volunteered to participate in the Lenten Devotional, I thought to myself, “Karen, what have you gotten yourself into”? Me; write a devotional. That would be such a BIG task; almost impossible because I’m not a chaplain or a preacher; I don’t read my Bible like I should; and this would require more thought on my behalf to humble myself and really tap into my spiritual being. It was almost scary! As I thought of all the reasons why I couldn’t prepare a devotional, I concluded that the task was too impossible! Impossible only from the standpoint that I was too wrapped up and too concerned about what people would think about me. Would my thoughts in this devotional be good enough? Then a fear from my past came to mind; was I reverting back to an addiction that I have carried with me for most of my life? This fear of consuming myself with concern had once again reentered my mind. I started to think my mind was playing tricks on me and I needed to somehow rid myself of this addiction once and for all. So where would I begin?

I began by taking that stroll down memory lane to finally confront this concern that had consumed my mind for most of my life. You see growing up, I always concerned myself with what people thought of me. Would they think I was good enough? Would they like me? Would they accept me? Would I be a member of the so called “in crowd? Those were some of the questions that I concerned myself with on a regular basis. I was so consumed with this concern that it clouded my vision. Never once did my concerns lead me to the Lord to free my mind of these unnecessary views that I had during this time. I never knew that if I would just stop, shut-up and be still, that the Lord would free my mind of any concerns that were consuming me. One thing I have learned during my 41-year journey through life is that when you are spiritually right, there is no concern about what people say or think of you. The only concern you have is what does the Lord say and think about you! I Corinthians 7:32-40, verse 32 reads “I would like you to be free from concern” and verse 40 reads, “In my judgment, she is happier if she stays as she is”. Although I have read this passage before, today was the first time I truly recognized that my mind has always been free from all concern and I am happier if I stay as I am with the help of the Lord. I know for certain that I am about consuming myself with conducting the Lord’s business. During this Lenten season, rejoice in knowing that happiness is not found in any concern you consume yourself with rather it is the giant steps of faith you take in your daily walk with the Lord.

Prayer: Lord, free our minds so we may continue to grow spiritually. Help us to recognize and appreciate the gifts we already possess; help us know that there is nothing impossible when we consume ourselves with the business of doing Your work.

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